

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COMMISSION DIRECTIVE**

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

☐

DATE

**August 12, 2020**

MOTOR CARRIER MATTER

☐

DOCKET NO.

**2020-63-E**

UTILITIES MATTER

☒

ORDER NO.

**SUBJECT:**

**DOCKET NO. 2020-63-E** - Petition of Bridgestone Americas Tire Organization, LLC for an Order Compelling Dominion Energy South Carolina, Incorporated to Allow the Operation of a 1980 kW AC Solar Array as Authorized by State Law - Staff Presents for Commission Consideration Bridgestone Americas Tire Organization, LLC's Petition for an Order Compelling Dominion Energy South Carolina, Incorporated to Allow the Operation of a 1980 kW AC Solar Array as Authorized by State Law.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

Prior to the start of the hearing on July 28, 2020, the Commission took the Bridgestone's Motion to Strike under advisement to be ruled upon in the Commission's Decision and Order. I move that the Commission grant in part and deny in part the Motion of Bridgestone and further find that:

1. The portions of the direct testimony of Witness Raftery identified in Bridgestone's Motion that contain evidence of conduct or statements made in settlement negotiations between DESC and Bridgestone are inadmissible and stricken pursuant to Rule 408, South Carolina Rules of Evidence.
2. The portions of DESC Witness Raftery's direct testimony identified in Bridgestone's Motion that contain hearsay statements made by South Carolina Solar Business Alliance are inadmissible and stricken pursuant to SCRE.
3. With regard to the portions of the direct testimonies from DESC Witnesses Raftery, Furtick, and Xanthakos, as well as those portions of the surrebuttal testimonies by these same DESC Witnesses Furtick and Xanthakos and DESC Witness Hammond, as identified by Bridgestone in its Motion to contain legal conclusions as to the application and interpretations of regulations and the SCGIP, including testimony offered by lay Witnesses as to the ultimate issue before this Commission, such Motion by Bridgestone is denied and such portions of the prefiled testimonies are deemed admissible and included in the Record.
4. I further move that the Commission clarify that Hearing Exhibit No. 15 is the same letter on behalf of the South Carolina Solar Business Alliance that Bridgestone objected and moved to have stricken in its Motion, and I therefore move that the Commission further clarify and strike such letter known as Hearing Exhibit No. 15 from the Record. The evidence sought to be stricken by Bridgestone in its Motion would have had no impact on the outcome of this matter as decided by the Commission.

5. If there are any other remaining evidentiary issues raised by Bridgestone's Motion to Strike not specifically addressed herein, they are denied.

With regard to Bridgestone's Petition, Bridgestone's Solar Array is directly connected to the Graniteville plant's powerhouse, not to DESC equipment, and will not interfere with DESC's equipment or its transmission system. *See, Bridgestone Pet. at ¶3.* Bridgestone will not net meter or sell its energy to DESC, as Bridgestone intends to consume all of the electricity generated by the Solar Array, and it installed reverse power flow protection relays to prevent electricity from being inadvertently transmitted from the Solar Array to DESC infrastructure. *See, Bridgestone Pet. at ¶¶ 4-5.* Bridgestone claims that it constructed the Solar Array in accordance with the contract for electric service ("Service Contract") between Bridgestone and DESC approved by the Commission. *Id.*

Based on these case-specific facts, Bridgestone argues that its Solar Array is not subject to the SCGIP and that DESC should be compelled to allow operation of the Solar Array which was completed in 2018. The Bridgestone Solar Array functions as a behind-the-meter resource which displaces load from the utility, and once in operation, the Solar Array will meet approximately 1.5% of the passenger and light truck tire plant's electrical needs at its Graniteville plant – which is undergoing an expansion that, when complete, and is expected to result in an increase in electricity demand from DESC regardless of any offset from the Solar Array.

Dominion's (DESC) position is that the Solar Array's operation outside of the South Carolina Generator Interconnection Procedures would violate the Service Contract between Bridgestone and DESC given that DESC is required to study the Generating Facility thereunder and therefore there is no agreement. As such, DESC argues that the study and review process under the South Carolina Generator Interconnection Procedures is the mechanism by which the parties agreed to ensure the reliability of both systems.

Following a two-day virtual hearing before the Commission where the parties to the Docket presented Witnesses on the issues as to the applicability of the South Carolina Generator Interconnection Procedures and the interpretation of the Service Contract between Bridgestone and DESC and other issues, I make the following motion:

- ▶ Based upon the approved Service Contract between Bridgestone and DESC, as well as the case-specific facts of this Docket, I move that the Commission grant Bridgestone a limited waiver to move to the front of the state interconnection queue in order for DESC to complete its study and review the Generating Facility pursuant to Section 4 of the South Carolina Generator Interconnection Procedures.
- ▶ I move that DESC must complete all relevant studies and work with Bridgestone in good faith to implement any additional measures needed to ensure the Solar Array will not cause harm to the DESC system once operational. DESC has already undertaken some review of Bridgestone's Solar Array and, under the Service Contract approved by this Commission, DESC has specified measures for the safe operation of the Bridgestone system.
- ▶ I further move that the Commission retain jurisdiction of this matter to ensure a smooth completion to make the Bridgestone Solar Array operational. The Commission orders DESC to report back to the Commission within sixty (60) days of this Order indicating that the Solar Array is operational or providing an explanation for the delay along with an expected timeline of completion of all relevant studies. If the Bridgestone Solar Array is not operational within sixty (60) days, DESC must continue to provide such report and explanation to the Commission every thirty (30) days thereafter until the Bridgestone Solar Array is operational and fully functional.

► I move that the Commission find that it has the authority to waive all or any part or portions of the requirements of the South Carolina Generator Interconnection Procedures in the public interest. The Commission's decision today is in the public interest and further intended to better serve the goals of 2014 Act 236 and the 2019 Energy Freedom Act (Act 62) consistent with the laws passed by the General Assembly for renewable energy in those acts.

► I move that the Commission find that it is in the public interest for Bridgestone to have a limited waiver from the interconnection queue requirement of SCGIP and for the Commission to require DESC to immediately proceed to undertake the relevant studies, testing, and measures needed to ensure the Solar Array will not cause harm to the DESC system once operational so as to allow the Solar Array to be operational as soon as practical.

Bridgestone has now waited approximately thirty (30) months for the Solar Array to become operational after its construction was completed. It is ordered by the Commission that DESC may not require that Bridgestone's Solar Array wait any further in the interconnection queue before allowing the Solar Array to operate and that DESC must proceed and work toward making the Solar Array operational.

Under the terms of the Service Contract, DESC and Bridgestone must work in good faith with each other and proceed to complete the studies and testing needed so that the Solar Array can begin operation within a reasonable period of time from the date of this Order.

This means that Bridgestone shall provide DESC and its representatives access to the Solar Array for the purpose of testing and relevant studies so that the Solar Array may become operational.

► A formal order addressing all issues in this docket will be forthcoming.

PRESIDING: Randall

SESSION: Regular

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	OTHER	
BELSER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		voting via videoconference
ERVIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		voting via videoconference
HAMILTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		voting via videoconference
HOWARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		voting via videoconference
RANDALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		voting via videoconference
WHITFIELD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Not Voting</u>	Sick Leave the Day of Hearing
WILLIAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Absent</u>	Military Leave

(SEAL)

RECORDED BY: J. Schmieding

